

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Purpose: The Office of the Governor provides direction and oversight of executive branch agencies to ensure that the laws are faithfully executed.

Authorities: MCA - Title 2, 10 & 90.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Governor

- During an incident, emergency or disaster, the Governor is commander-in-chief of the militia and of all other forces available for incident, emergency or disaster duty. The Governor will direct the activation of the State of Montana Disaster and Emergency Plan. *[Coordination]*
- In addition to any other powers conferred upon the Governor by law, the Governor may:
 - Request the use of services and facilities of the existing officers and agencies of the state.
 - Suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or orders or rules of any state agency if the strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order or rule would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the situation.
 - Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from an emergency or disaster area within the state if the Governor considers this action necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery.
 - Control ingress and egress to and from an incident, emergency or disaster area; the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises within the area.
 - Issue executive orders, proclamations and regulations or amend and rescind them. (Executive orders or proclamations can declare or terminate a state of emergency or disaster.)
 - Authorize the incurring of liabilities and expenses to be paid as other claims against the state from the general fund, in the amount necessary, when an incident, emergency or disaster justifies the expenditure and is declared by the Governor to meet contingencies and needs arising from an emergency or disaster.
 - Request issuance of federal declarations or designations: Presidential declaration, Small Business Administration (SBA) declaration or USDA Secretary of Agriculture Natural Disaster Determination.
 - Activate the Governor's emergency powers as dictated by statute for energy emergencies. *[Coordination]*

Lieutenant Governor

- Participate on the state drought committee. As Chair of the committee, the Lt. Governor shall provide direction as needed to ensure the DAC's work is consistent with that of the division of DES for drought planning, preparation, coordination and mitigation. *[Drought]*

Budget & Program Planning

- Monitor and manage the Governor's Disaster Fund. *[Coordination - Financial Management]*
- Authorize spending authority to any state agency from the Governor's Disaster Fund as requested by the Governor when an incident, emergency or disaster is declared. *[Coordination - Financial Management]*
- Provide technical assistance to agencies regarding accounting practices related to expenses incurred during an incident, emergency or disaster. *[Coordination - Financial Management]*
- Ensure the appropriate accounting procedures are in place for tracking disaster expenses, requesting reimbursements, submitting budget change documents, requesting statutory authority or submitting supplemental appropriation requests. *[Coordination - Financial Management]*

Indian Affairs

- Serve as a liaison to Indian tribal leaders as needed for the Office of the Governor and state government agencies. *[Coordination]*

Communications

- Activate, at the direction of the Governor, the State of Montana's Communications Operational plan and designate the lead agency for communications. *[Coordination - Public Information]*
- Provide guidance and technical assistance to agencies on the dissemination of information. *[Coordination - Public Information]*
- Coordinate press events involving the Governor. *[Coordination - Public Information]*

Citizens' Advocate

- Serve as an initial central point of contact for the general public to obtain information about the incident, emergency or disaster and assist with the transition to and return from the use of a disaster hotline when implemented. *[Human Services Programs]*
- Provide information to the communication's staff regarding number and type of public information requests received. *[Technical Assistance]*